SLOUGH TOWN 3, WYCOMBE WDRS 2

IN AN EMOTIONAL moment which the players will never forget the 1,700 crowd rose as one to cheer them off the pitch at half-time after the best 45 minutes I have ever seen produced in an Isthmian League match. And the fact that Slough deservedly came out on top of this local derby speaks volumes for their ability.

Wycombe, having lost to Slough in all their four encounters last season, fought tooth and nail and twice took the lead in a rip-roaring first-half. But Slough refused to panic and some touches of sheer magic by Paul Lee, Dave Russell and Roy Davies enabled them to make it 2-2 by half-time and to go on to gain a memorable win.

Davies, whose extrovert behaviour used to be frowned upon, was the hero of Slough's biggest crowd of the season. He helped Town to dominate the mid-field, scored twice and produced some hilarious antics. These included using a touch line flag as a microphone and almost collapsing with laughter when a Wycombe defender mis-kicked the ball into touch.

Certainly, the Football League scouts who flocked to see Messrs. Davies, Russell and Lee were not disappointed. But perhaps the biggest impression was made by keeper Trevor Porter who was being watched by Southampton's Ted Bates. Porter dived bravely to save at the feet of Pearson and then ex-Town player Mead in the opening minutes.
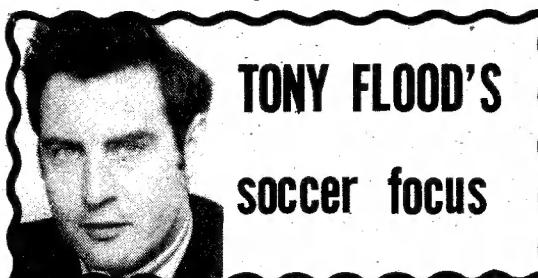
He stood no chance in the 11th minute, however, Evans ghosted past two players to provide the pass for Howard **Kettleborough** to rifle home a first time shot.

Slough were finding it hard to make much progress along the ground at this stage but were dangerous in the air. Somers nodded a Turl cross into the side-netting and Lee's header

TONY FLOOD'S soccer focus

from a Gane free-kick brought a smart save from Maskell.

Turl was always ready to move up from right-back and one fine run took him past two men — with the help of Somers — but his shot went over.

Then, in the 21st minute, Slough had some atrocious luck. Russell pushed the ball to Lee whose prod forward beat the advancing Maskell. The ball seemed to be trickling in but instead hit the post and was scrambled away.

Slough eventually made it all square four minutes later. Russell fed Gane on the right

and the ex-Wycombe man's deep cross to the far post was headed majestically home by **Somers.**

But, after a wave of Slough attacks, Wycombe broke away to regain the lead in the 37th minute. Turl failed to cut the ball out and Kettleborough's left wing cross found **Evans** who swung his boot to send a terrific drive over Porter's head into the net.

Slough came storming back and, with three minutes to go to half-time, Davies got a great equaliser. As Russell's cross came over from the right **Davies** launched himself into the air to volley it two-footed past a bewildered Maskell.

Not surprisingly, the pace slackened a little in the second-half, though there were still several goalmouth thrills. A shot from Gane bounced out of

Maskell's arms with no Slough player on hand to take advantage but Slough went 3-2 ahead after 61 minutes.

The goal was the result of a superb move which was built up so clinically that it seemed to be in slow motion. The ball flowed from left to right as it went from Underwood to Turl to Russell. Young Russell's cross found Somers at the far post and his header fell perfectly, enabling **Davies** to evade a defender and slam the ball into the net off an upright.

Referee D. Hedges briefly held up play soon after the goal because someone had thrown mud at Maskell.

Slough continued to dictate, with Lee making an exciting run past two men, only to fire into Maskell's arms. Yet Wycombe almost snatched another breakaway goal in the last minute. Porter blocked Kennedy's shot and when Kettleborough turned the ball across goal Pearson headed over.

So Slough had again beaten the 'old enemy' and in doing so had stretched their unbeaten run to 12 games.

Slough: Porter; Turl, Malley, Beyer, Underwood; Gane, Reardon, Davies; Russell, Somers, Lee. Sub: van den Berg (not used).